

Wednesday, September 29, 1999

Habitat for Humanity to Build Home in Town

Habitat for Humanity plans to seek out land in town to build a house for about \$65,000.

The Duxbury Chapter of the organization held a meeting recently to appoint committee members, discuss goals and talk about potential sites.

The land approval process and construction could take nearly two years but organizer Frank Lord believes it is a cause worth the wait.

He has been involved in construction of several Habitat homes down south and in New England, most recently in South Carolina.

The average cost of a Habitat house on the South Shore ranges from \$55,000 to \$65,000 well below median house prices. The organizers rely on donations of labor and materials and grants from businesses.

Ken Meyers will head up the Duxbury effort as chairman of the local group which takes its lead from the South Shore Habitat for Humanity, founded in 1986 under the guidelines of Habitat for Humanity International. Habitat homes have been built in 14 South Shore communities so far.

Volunteers are covered by an insurance liability policy and must be 14 years of age or older. One site supervisor is hired for the entire project.

Habitat also seeks the volunteer services of lawyers, engineers and real estate professionals.

A fundraiser golf tournament was held on Tuesday, Sept. 28 at the Ridder Country Club in Whitman and a hike in the Blue Hills is planned on Saturday, Oct. 2.

The organization picks a needy family as homeowners from a long list of applicants. The prospective Duxbury homeowners have not yet been identified.

Selectman Margaret Kearney said there are at least 20 potential sites which would need to be evaluated through the town's development review process to ensure they conform to building and conservation regulations.